



County of San Diego Planning & Development Services

September eBLAST

In the Headlines

CODE COMPLIANCE IMPROVING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

The Planning & Development Services (PDS), Code Compliance Division received a complaint on a property in Spring Valley and found a once vacant site completely littered with waste, junk and various other items being offered for sale. Staff quickly issued a warning to the property owner which resulted in a swift cleanup and removal of a neighborhood eyesore.



COMMUNITY PLANS UPDATED

Board of Supervisors

GREG COX
First District

DIANNE JACOB
Second District

DAVE ROBERTS
Third District

RON ROBERTS
Fourth District

BILL HORN
Fifth District

Planning & Development Services

MARK WARDLAW
Director

DARREN GRETHER
Assistant Director

Important Dates

Board of Supervisors
Calendar and Agendas

Planning Commission
Calendars and Agendas

The San Dieguito, Borrego Springs, and Mountain Empire – Boulevard Community Plans were recently updated by the Board of Supervisors. The San Dieguito Community Plan was updated with information about the San Dieguito Specific Plan and Community Plan General Plan Amendment projects. Wind Energy Ordinance information was added to the Borrego Springs and Mountain Empire – Boulevard Community Plans. Updated versions can be found on PDS' [General Plan website](#).



DISABLED VETS GET FEES WAIVED ON RESIDENTIAL ACCESSIBILITY UPGRADES

PDS will soon start waiving the building plan-check and permit fees for disabled military veterans who want to upgrade the accessibility of their homes. The fee waiver applies to modifications improving access to and within a veteran's home, including ramp construction, bathroom reconfigurations, and increased maneuvering clearances. The measure, which has received unanimous support from the County Board of Supervisors, will take effect October 11. For more on this story visit the [County News Center](#)



THAT'S GOOD CUSTOMER SERVICE!

PDS received a letter of praise and thanks from Mr. Dan Biggs, Professional Engineer, of Kappa Surveying and Engineering about "Superior Service by Mr. Ed Sinsay". Ed is a Project Manager for the Land Development Division. Mr. Biggs' letter detailed how a small but complicated project was experiencing some challenges. But "after meeting with Ed and his staff, I saw a great improvement in the progress of the project". Ed coordinated permitting between PDS and the Department of Public Works (DPW). Mr. Biggs concluded, by saying, Ed and his staff "cast a very bright and positive light on the work of Land Development staff."

HEADS UP, NEW CONSTRUCTION CODES COMING!



PDS Building Division is preparing for the update of our construction codes which will take effect in January 2014. The effort includes training staff on the new code provisions, revising dozens of PDS forms and documents, and educating customers. The following new State codes – with County of San Diego amendments – will apply to projects formally submitted to PDS after January 1, 2014:

- 2013 California Building Code
- 2013 California Residential Code
- 2013 California Fire Code
- 2013 California Electrical Code
- 2013 California Plumbing Code
- 2013 California Mechanical Code
- 2013 California Green Building Code
- 2013 California Building Energy Efficiency Standards

The 2010 codes currently in effect will apply to projects formally submitted prior to January 1, 2014, provided a permit is issued within one year and construction commences within two years of permit issuance. Projects are considered "formally submitted" when an applicant receives a project record

Did you know?

The community of Jacumba changed its name to Jacumba Hot Springs in February of this year.

Online Services

[Citizen Access Portal](#)

Research property information and permits. Apply for some permits online.

[GIS Maps](#)

Determine the zoning and characteristics of properties with our web-based mapping tool.



ID and conditions of permit approval from a PDS counter technician (or on [projects eligible for online processing](#) on the County's [Citizen Access](#) website). The necessary steps preceding formal submittal are detailed in PDS' "[How to Obtain a Building Permit](#)" summary". In the past, we have experienced an increase in submittal appointments in advance of the code changes. For customers with projects designed to the 2010 codes, PDS strongly recommends plan submittal as soon as possible to ensure meeting the end-of-year deadline.

PDS COST RECOVERY CHANGES

It's been almost five years since fees and deposits were changed. Following a thorough analysis of services and cost recovery, PDS found that rates still needed to be adjusted even though several innovations such as online tools, automation, and other efficiencies were implemented to lower costs. Proposed fee changes were discussed at industry and public meetings prior to moving forward. The changes increased some fees and lowered others. The average flat fee permit will increase by five percent and the average hourly rate will increase by four percent. Although rate increases can be challenging, adjustments ensure a fair and equitable rate structure for customers receiving the permit and ensure other County taxpayers are not subsidizing the services. These changes will be effective September 15th. A detailed listing of all changes can be found [here](#).

STAFF SPOTLIGHT - JASON BATCHELOR



Jason has been with the County since 2001. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree, in Biology with a microbiology background and a Master's degree in Geography. Jason is the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Coordinator for our GIS unit and keeps the work programs and budget on track for several departments inside and outside of the Land Use and Environment Group (LUEG). Jason has a background in professional project management and was instrumental in the creation of the County Rainfall map used to determine rural ground water availability. When he worked for the County Fire Authority he was involved in the mapping of fire

perimeters and front lines of more than two dozen fires. He also led the 2007 damage assessment GIS effort for the fire recovery process. Jason maintains PDS web-based mapping applications which can be used by customers to look up property information and facts about their communities. He has helped establish the customer-first mentality for the GIS unit and has secured the business from many other County departments outside of PDS. Jason is married with a 7 year old child and is a fan of off-road racing, craft beer, and slow cook BBQ techniques.

ON THE MOVE...

Clay Westling has been selected as the new *Deputy Director* overseeing the Building and Code Compliance Divisions. Clay has been with the County for 27 years, and most recently served as Chief of the Building Division. As Chief, he led the Building team during the transition to our new Business Case Management System and spearheaded customer service improvements at our permit center. Clay has a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, is a registered Professional Civil Engineer, a certified Building Official, Plans Examiner, and Green Building Professional. Clay embodies our customer-first attitude and hands-on problem solving approach that we expect in our department.





We are pleased to welcome **Todd Snyder** as *Chief of the Advance Planning Division*. Todd began working for the County in 2002, but left County service in 2005 and took a position with the City of Imperial Beach as an Environmental Programs Manager. Todd returned to the County in 2007 as a Land Use/Environmental Planner III with the former Department of Planning and Land Use. Since 2008, Todd has worked as a Land Use/Environmental Planning Manager in the Department of Public Works. Todd has a Master's Degree in Public Policy with a concentration in Environmental Policy from the

University of California, Los Angeles, where he also obtained his Bachelor's degree in Political Science and History. We are excited to have Todd's strategic and organizational insight, positive relationships with staff and stakeholders, and strong work ethic as part of our leadership team.

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